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The Role of Felsite in Neolithic Shetland

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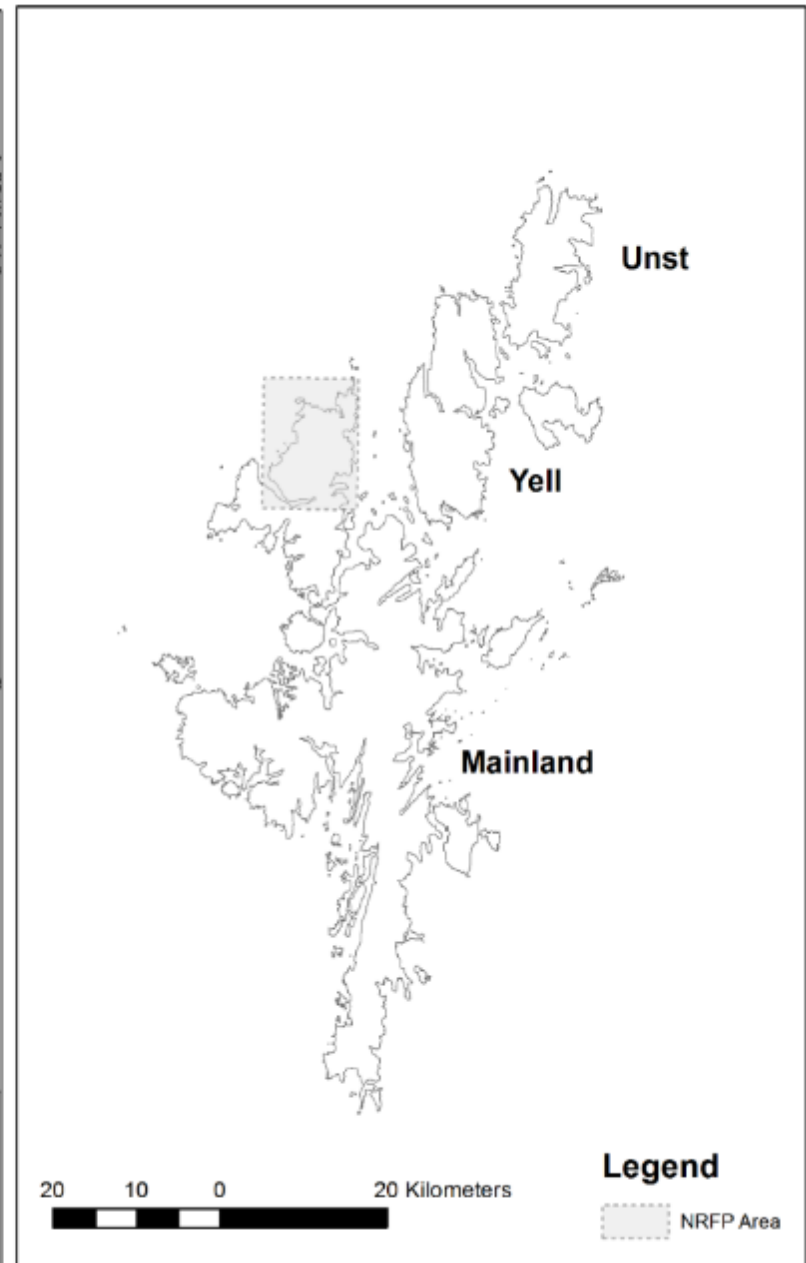
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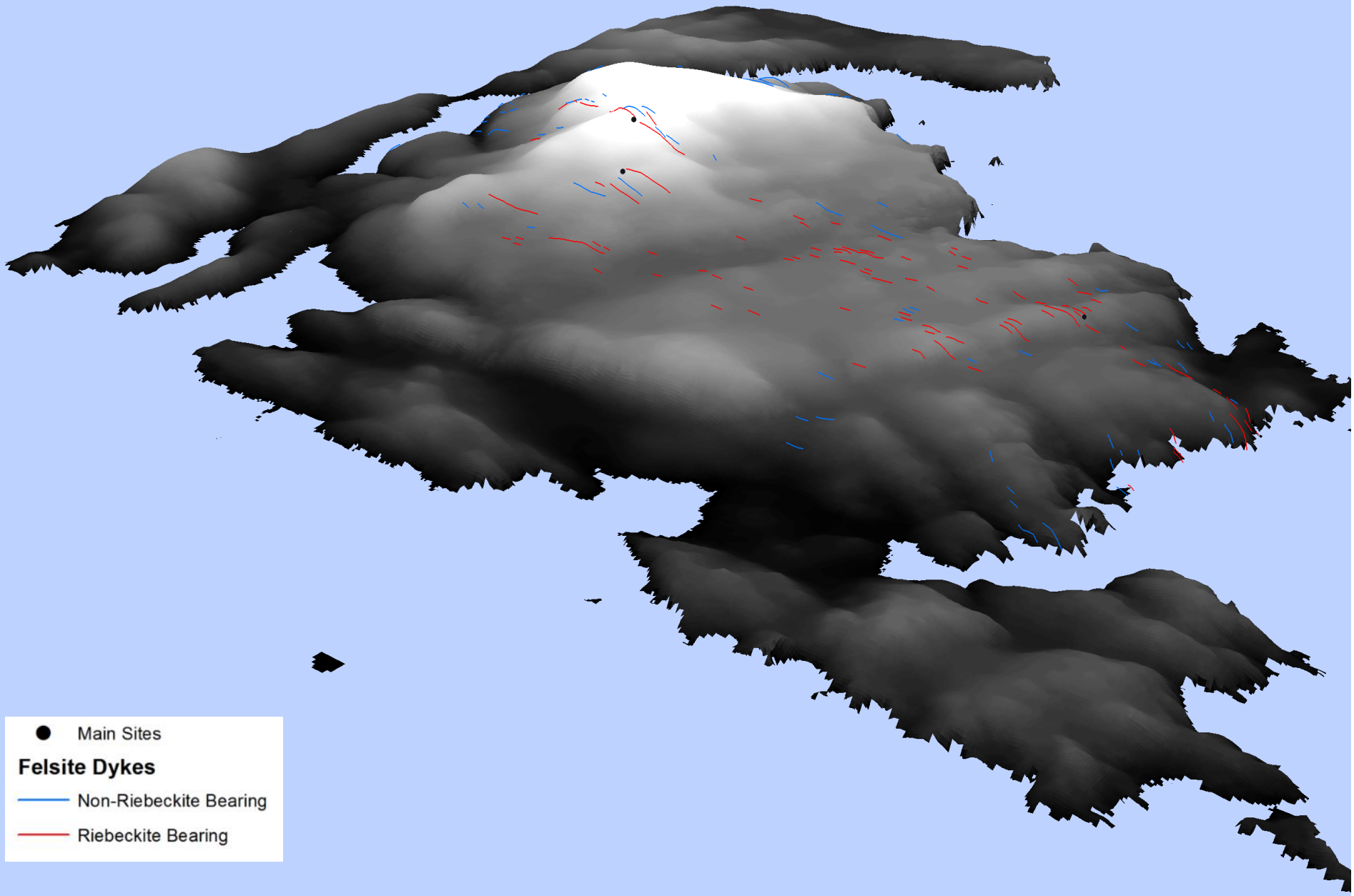
Objects for an Island World – The Role of Felsite in Neolithic Shetland

William Megarry, Queen's University Belfast
Gabriel Cooney, University College Dublin
Mik Markham, Implement Petrology Group
Brendan O'Neill, University College Dublin
Bernard Gilhooley, University College Dublin
Vin Davis, Implement Petrology Group





North Roe – With Felsite Dykes

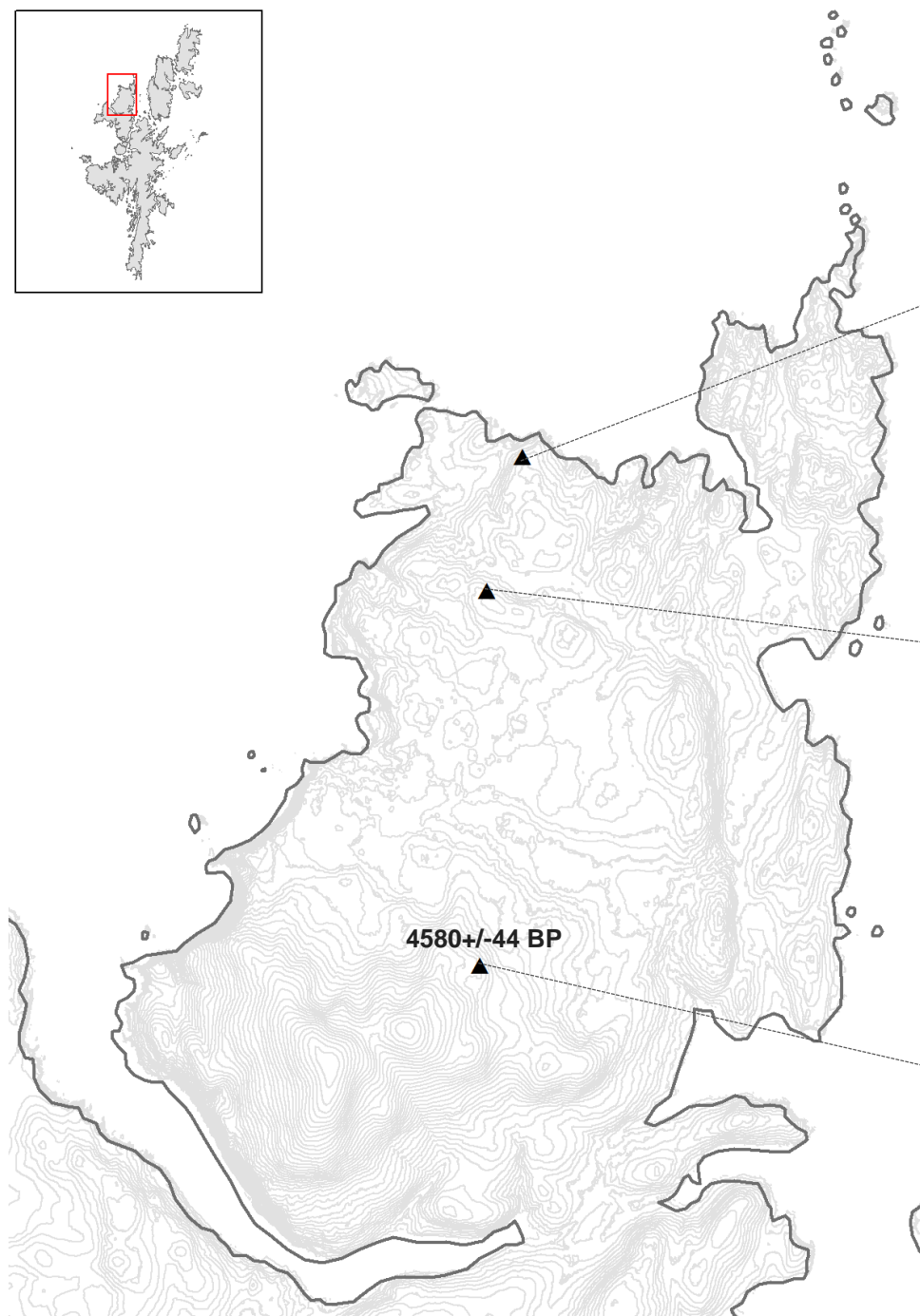
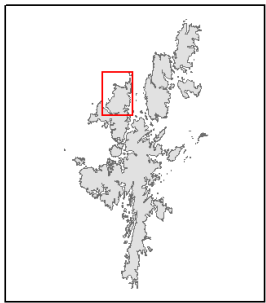




Felsite knives in the Stourbrough hoard, West Mainland, Shetland. (Photo: Shetland Amenity Trust/D. Piquer)



Chilled margin between felsite and red granite, Northmavine (Photo by NRFP 2013)



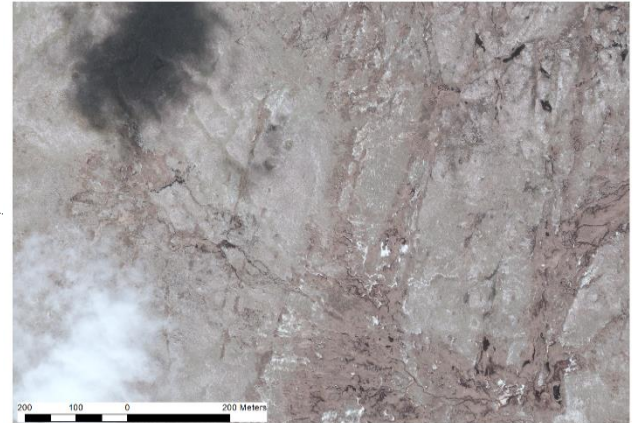
Brevligarth



Beorgs of Uyea



Midfield



Understanding the *chaîne opératoire* of production at quarry sites



Felsite débitage at the Beorgs of Uyea, North Roe (Photo by NRFP 2013)



Quarry marks on felsite, Northmavine (Photo by NRFP 2013)



Quarry pits along felsite dyke, Northmavine (Photo by NRFP 2014)

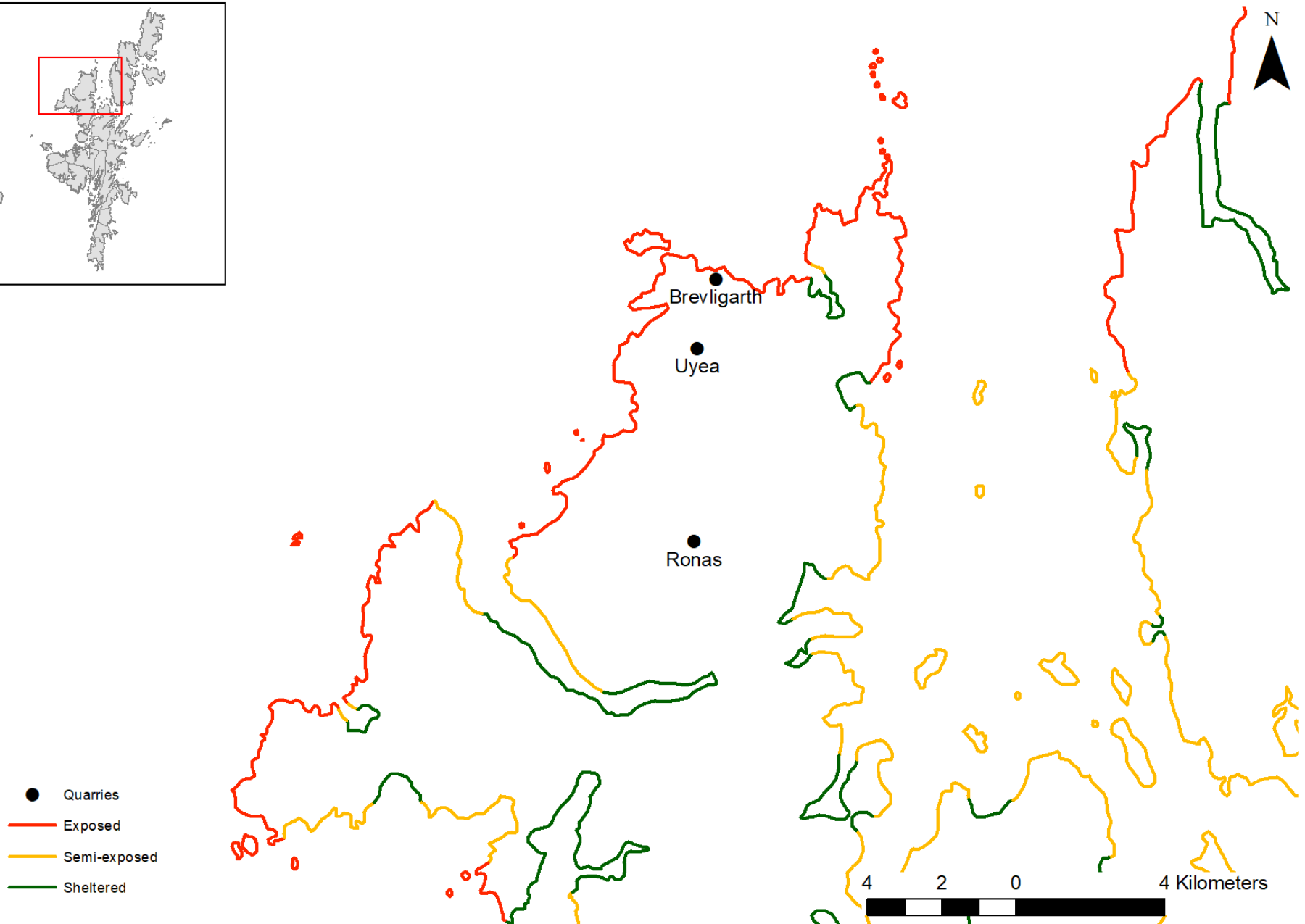
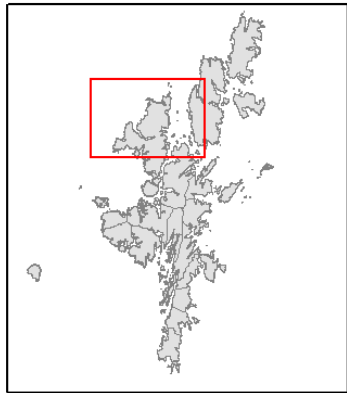


Felsite stone Axe Roughouts, Northmavine (Photo by NRFP 2013)

From the quarries to the wider landscape



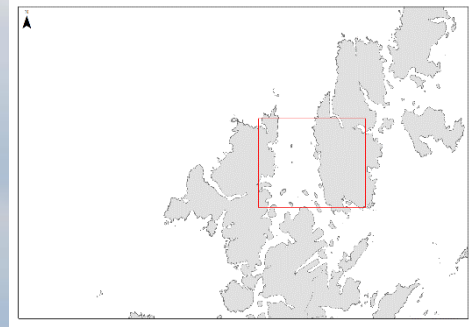
Beach rolled boulders at Uyea, Northmavine (Photo by NRFP 2016)



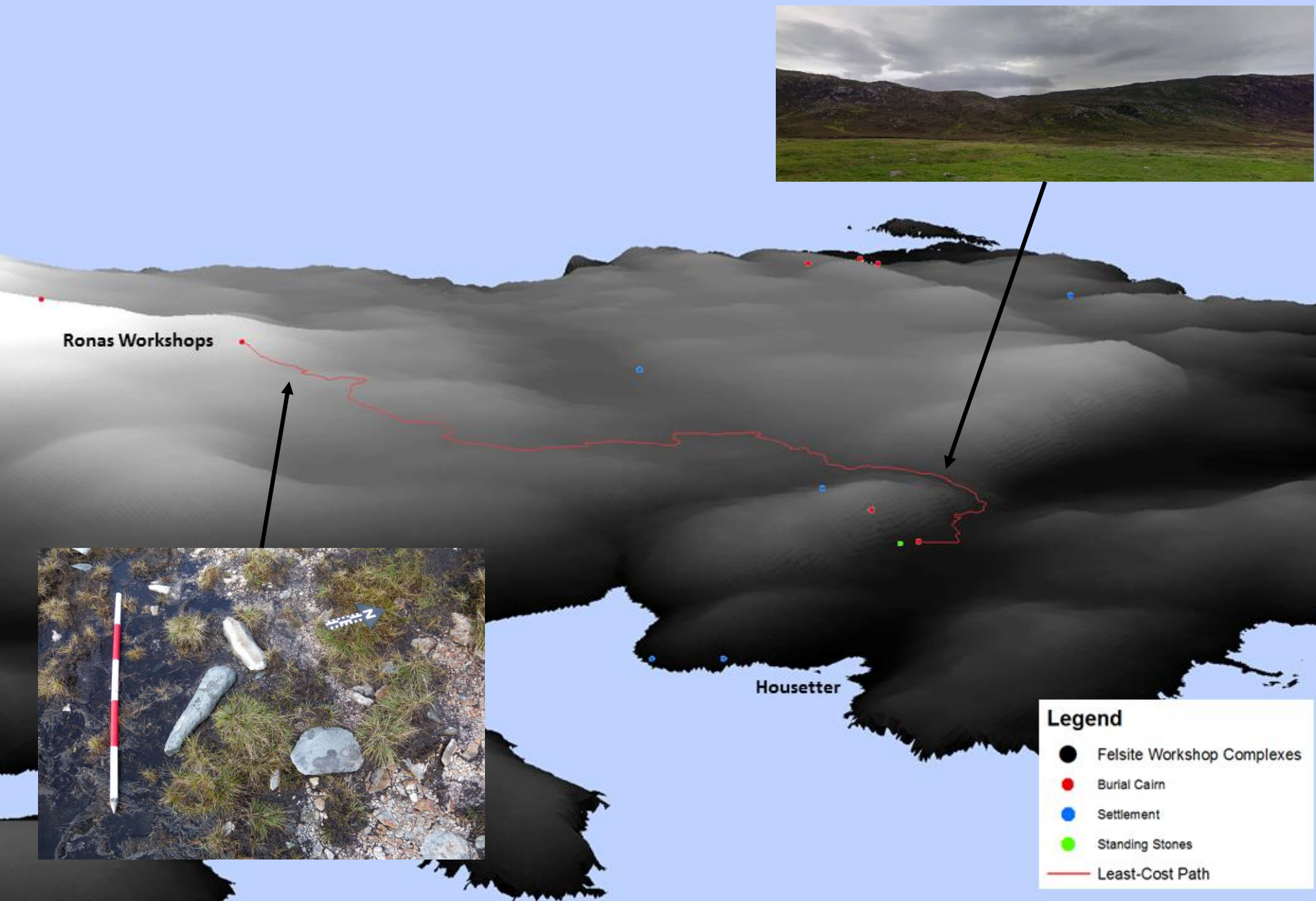
Exposed Coastline and Sheltered Harbours (after Flinn 1964)



Cliffs at Echaness, Northmavine (Photo by NRFP 2016)



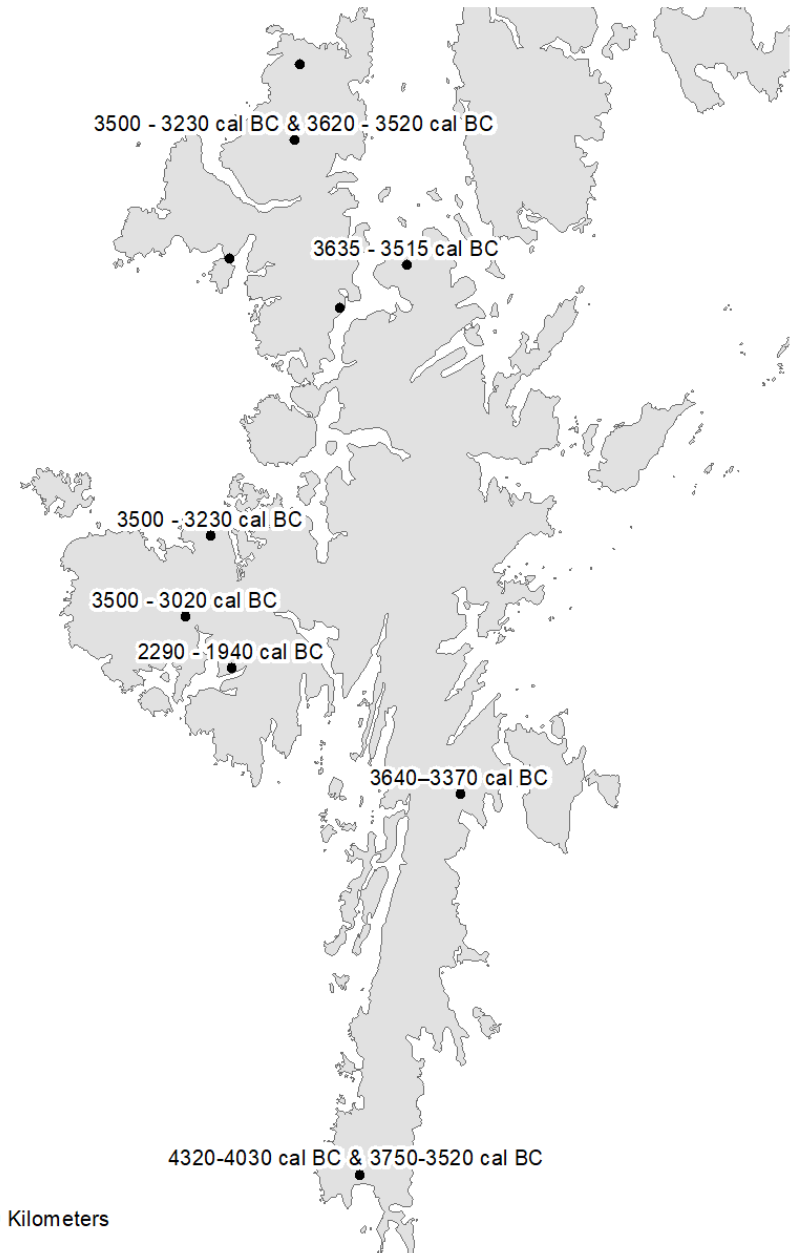
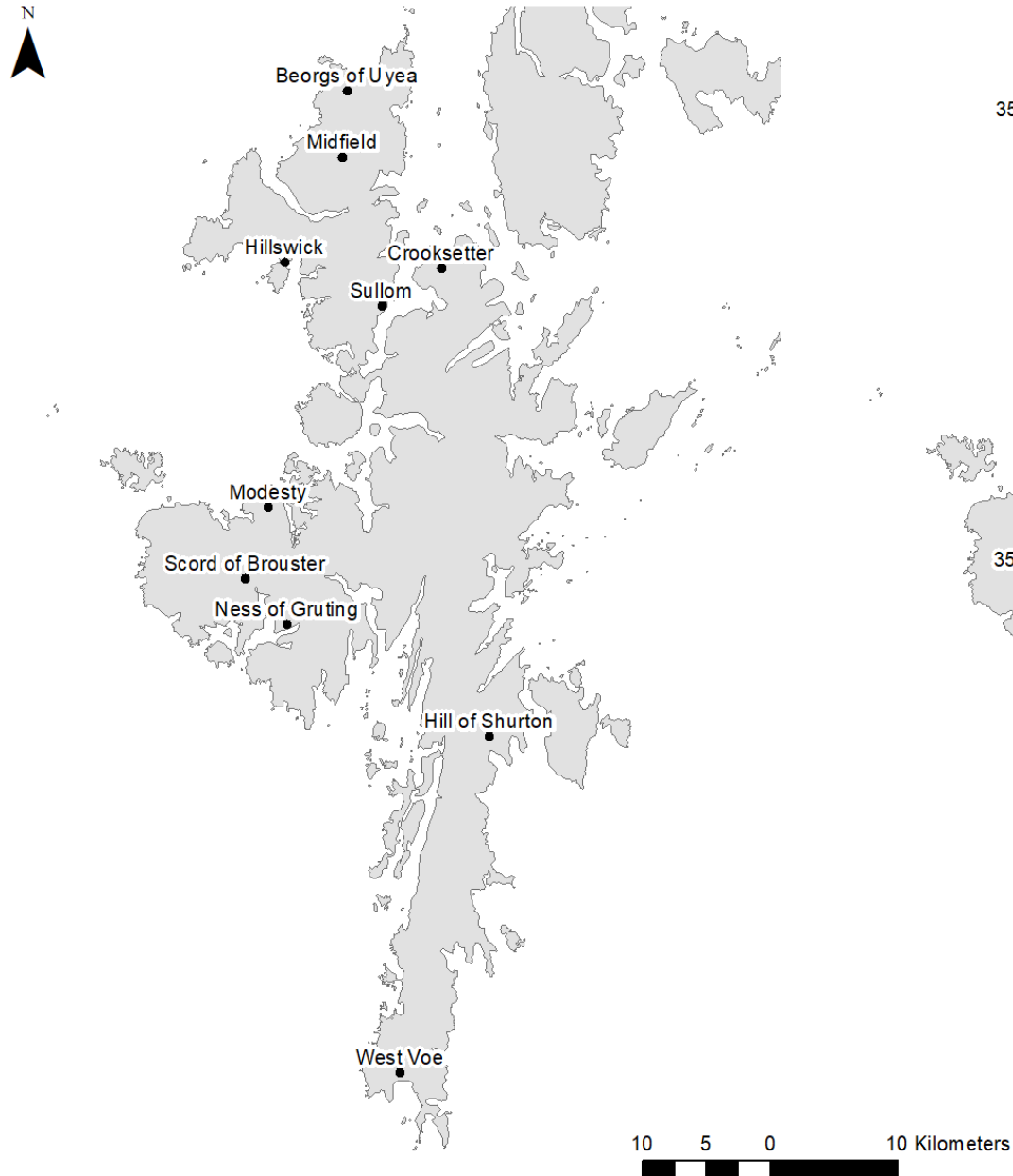
View from Northmavine to Yell, Northmavine (Photo by NRFP 2016)



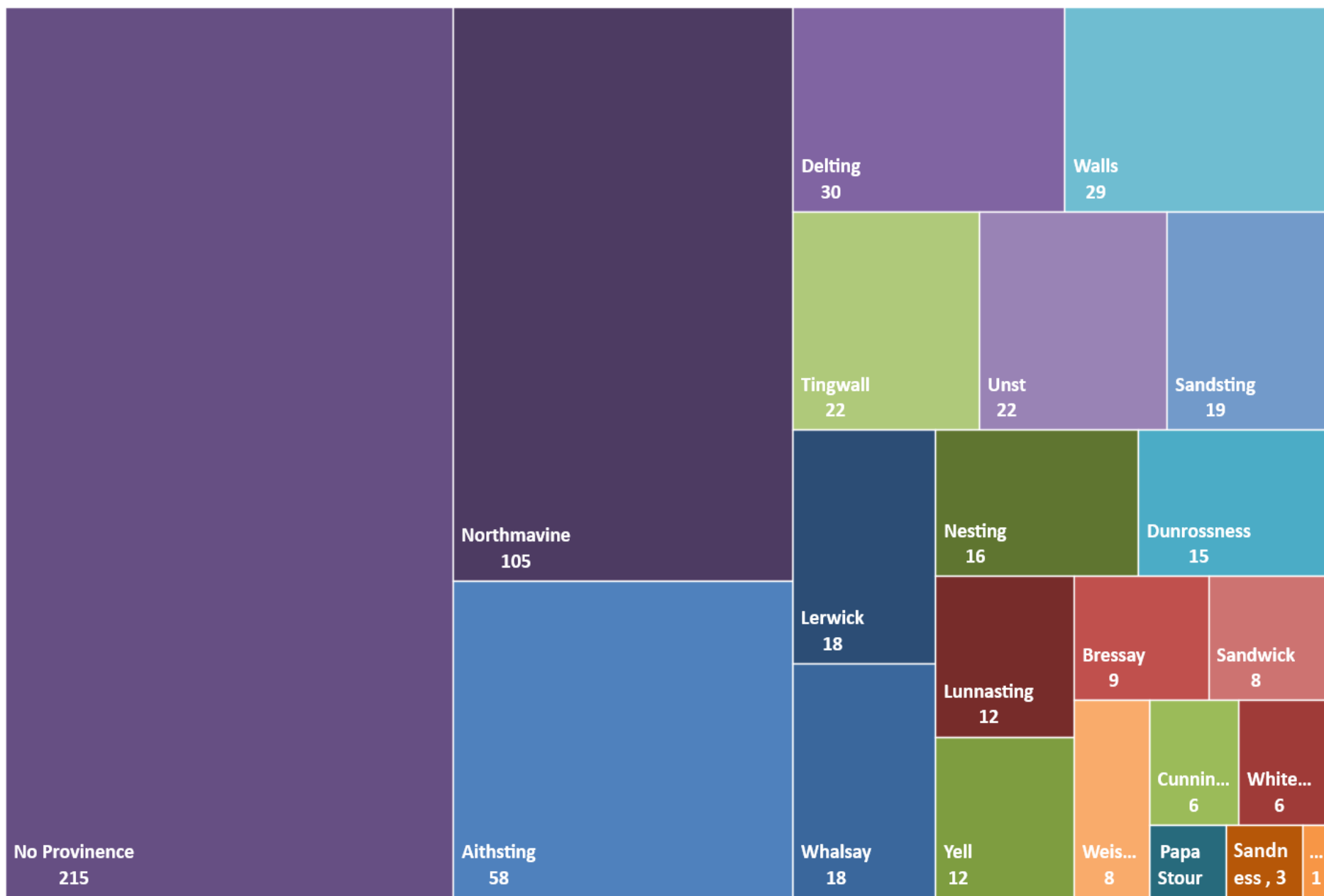
* $T = [(a) * (\Delta S)]$
 + $[(b) * (\Delta H \text{ uphill})] + [(c) * (\Delta H \text{ moderate downhill})]$
 + $[(d) * (\Delta H \text{ steep downhill})]$ (after Langmuir, E. 1984)

Least-Cost Path from Grut Wells to the Coast (Image by NRFP 2016)

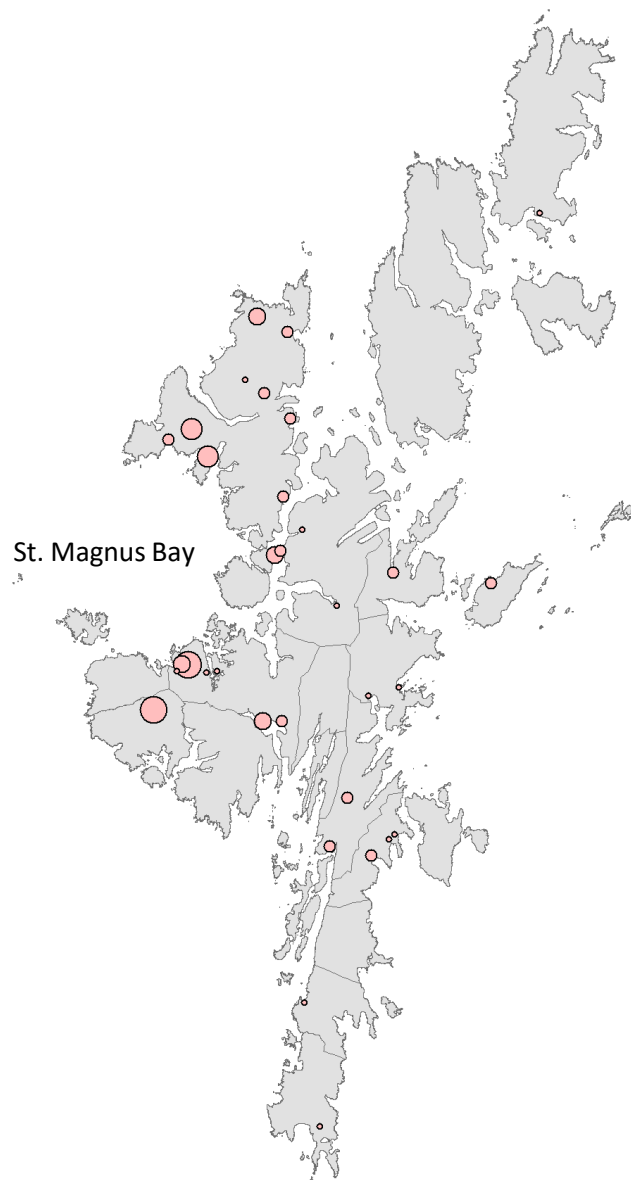
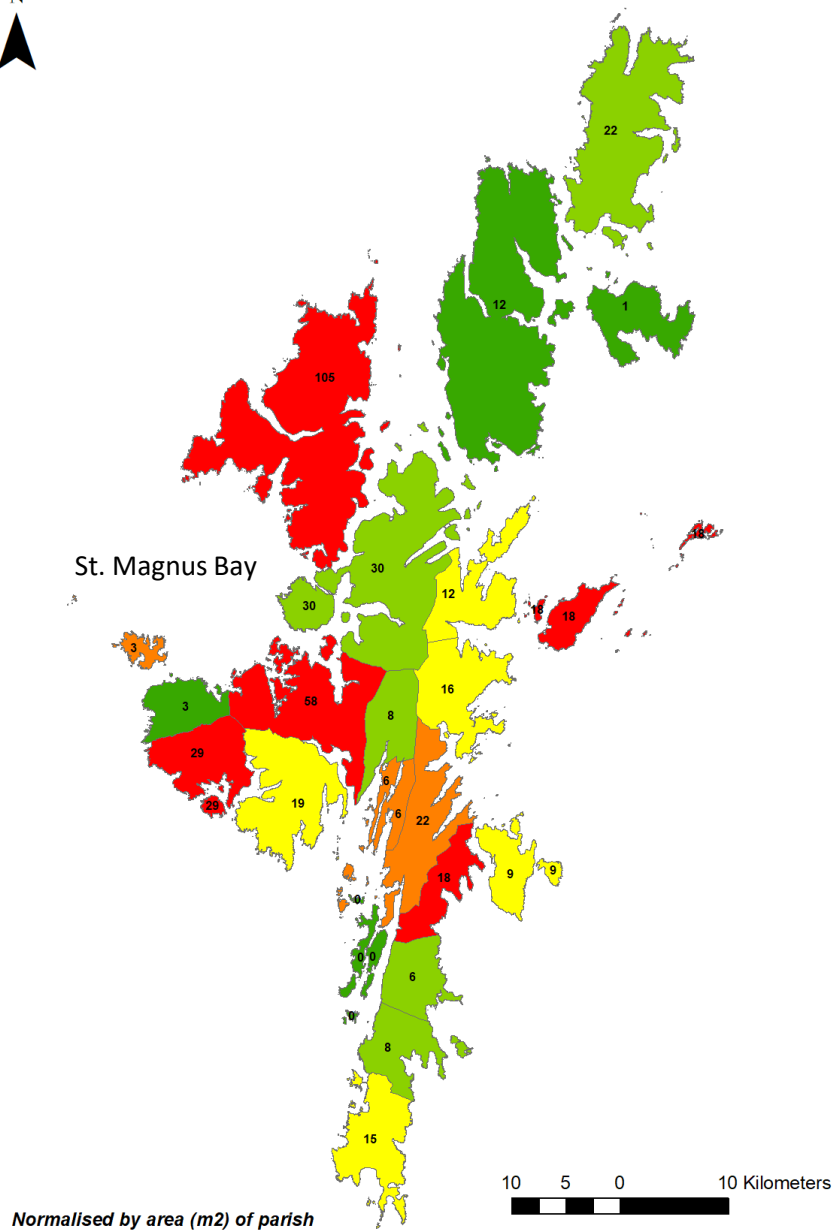
Important Early – Middle Neolithic sites (left) and Dates (right)



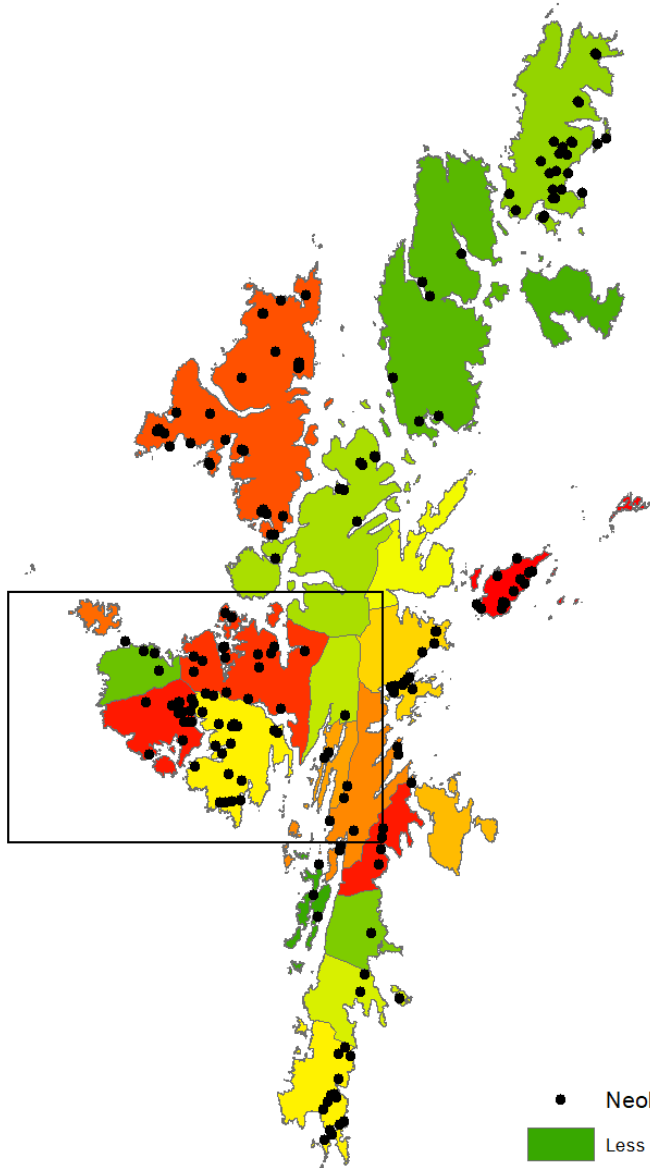
Number of Tools in Each Parish



Densities of all tools (left) and Places with more than three tools (Right)



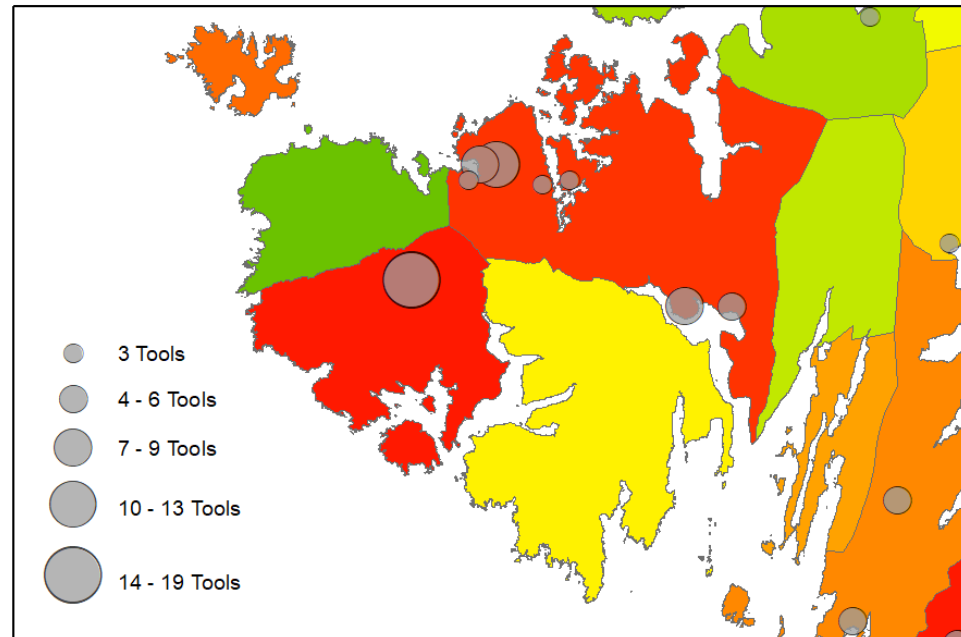
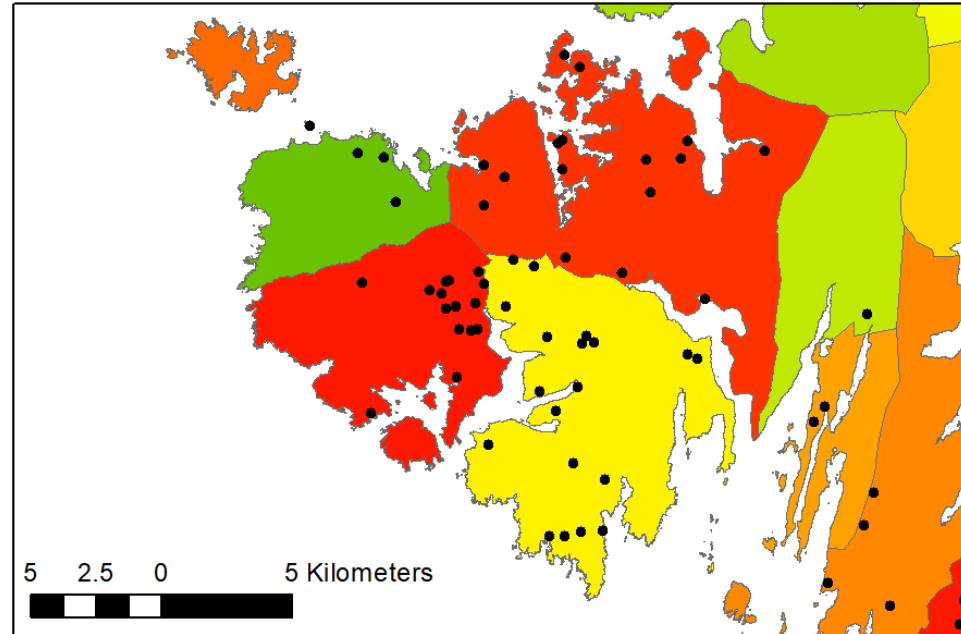
Focus on West Mainland

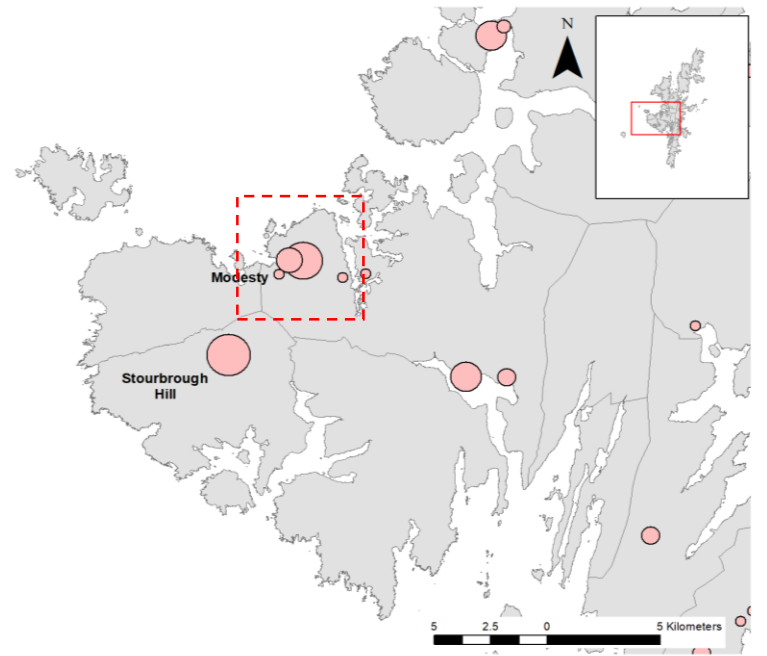


10 5 0 10 Kilometers

- Neolithic Sites
- Less tools per m2
- More tools per m2

Normalised by area (m2) of parish



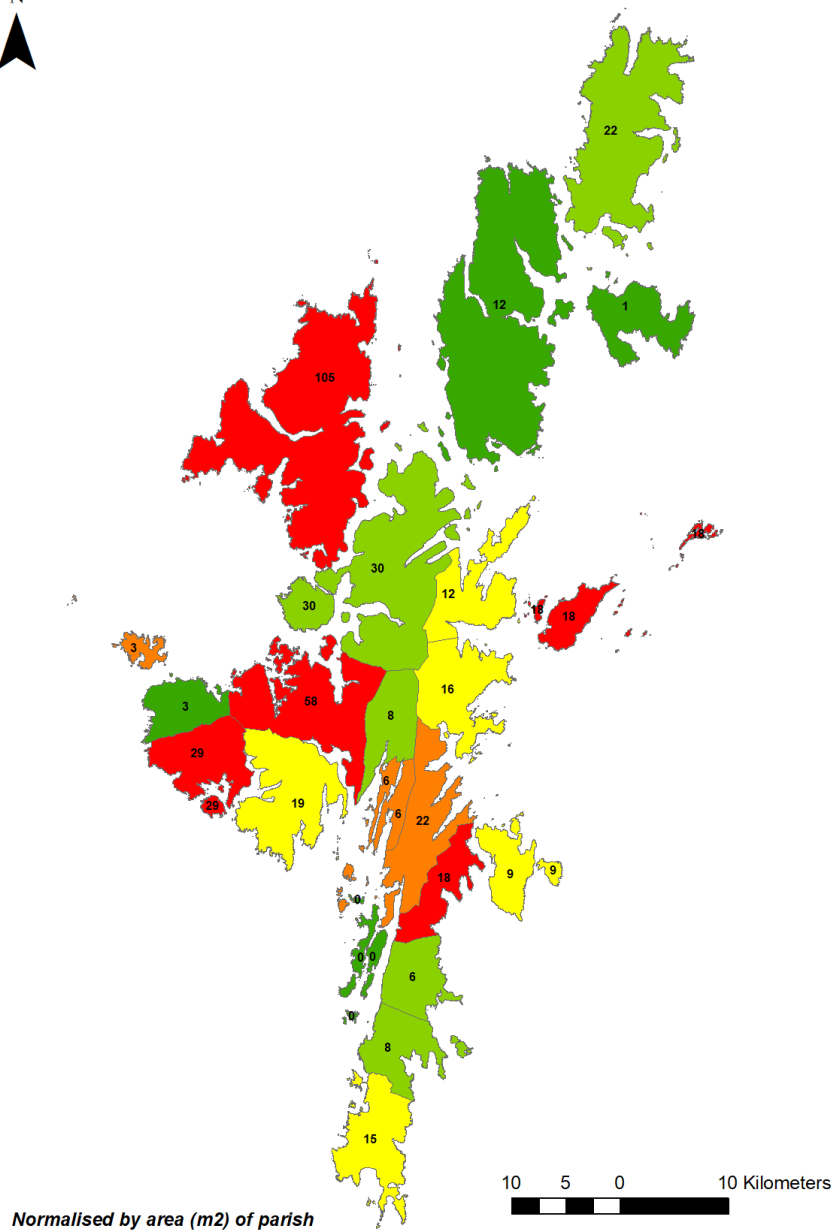


Axes (top right), Knives (bottom left) and more recent finds from Modesty, W. Mainland (Photo: NRFP 2018)



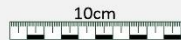
Modesty and West Burrafirth, W. Mainland (Photo: NRFP 2018)

N



Hillswick Axes

Shetland ARC 6762



Shetland ARC 65605



NMS X.AF 673



Brae/ Delting

Shetland ARC 6810



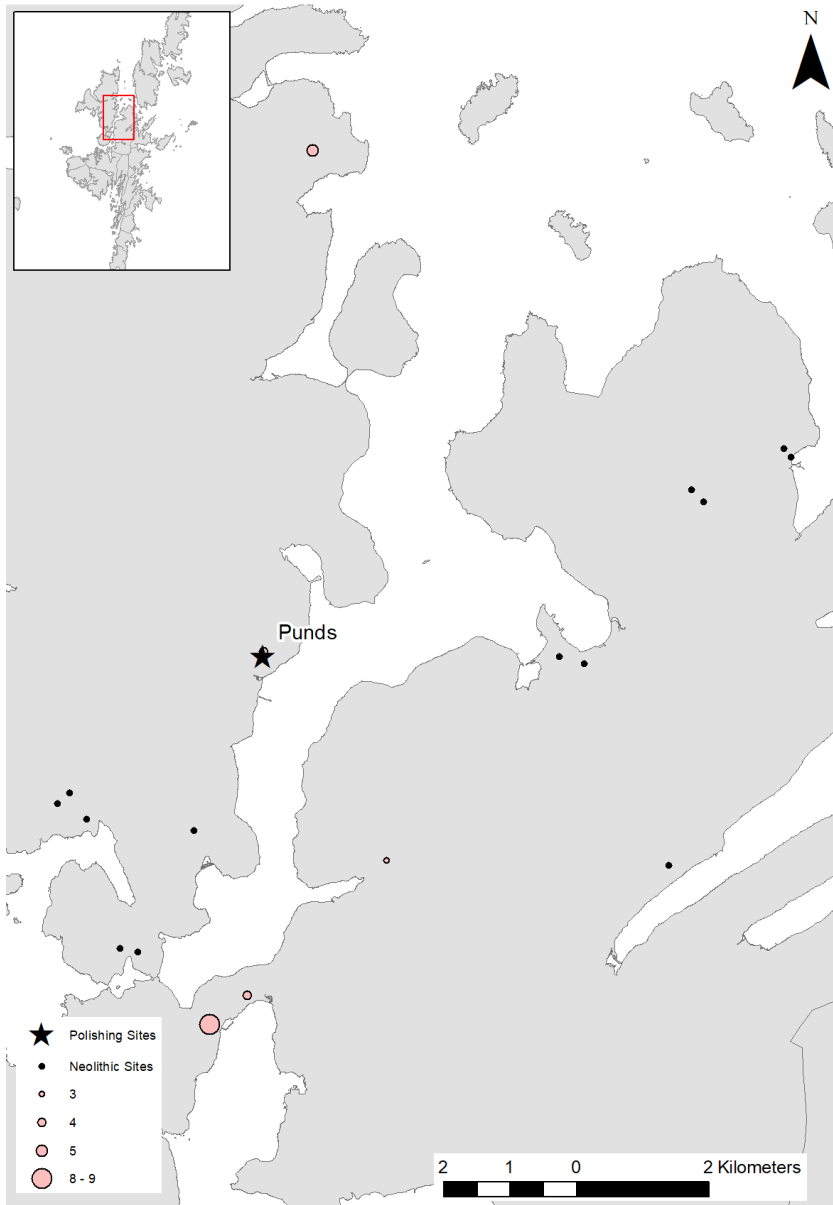
Huntarian B.1914.899



Huntarian B.1914.901



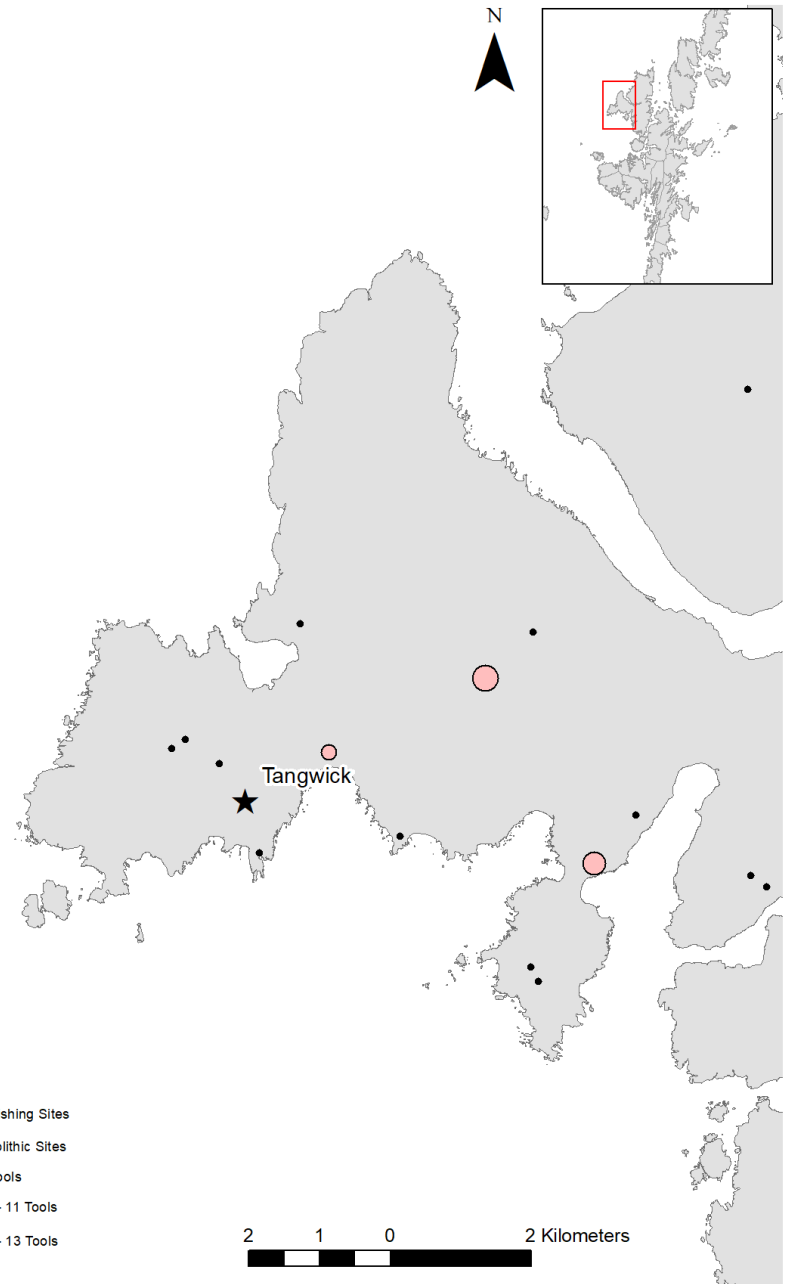
Sullom Polishing Site

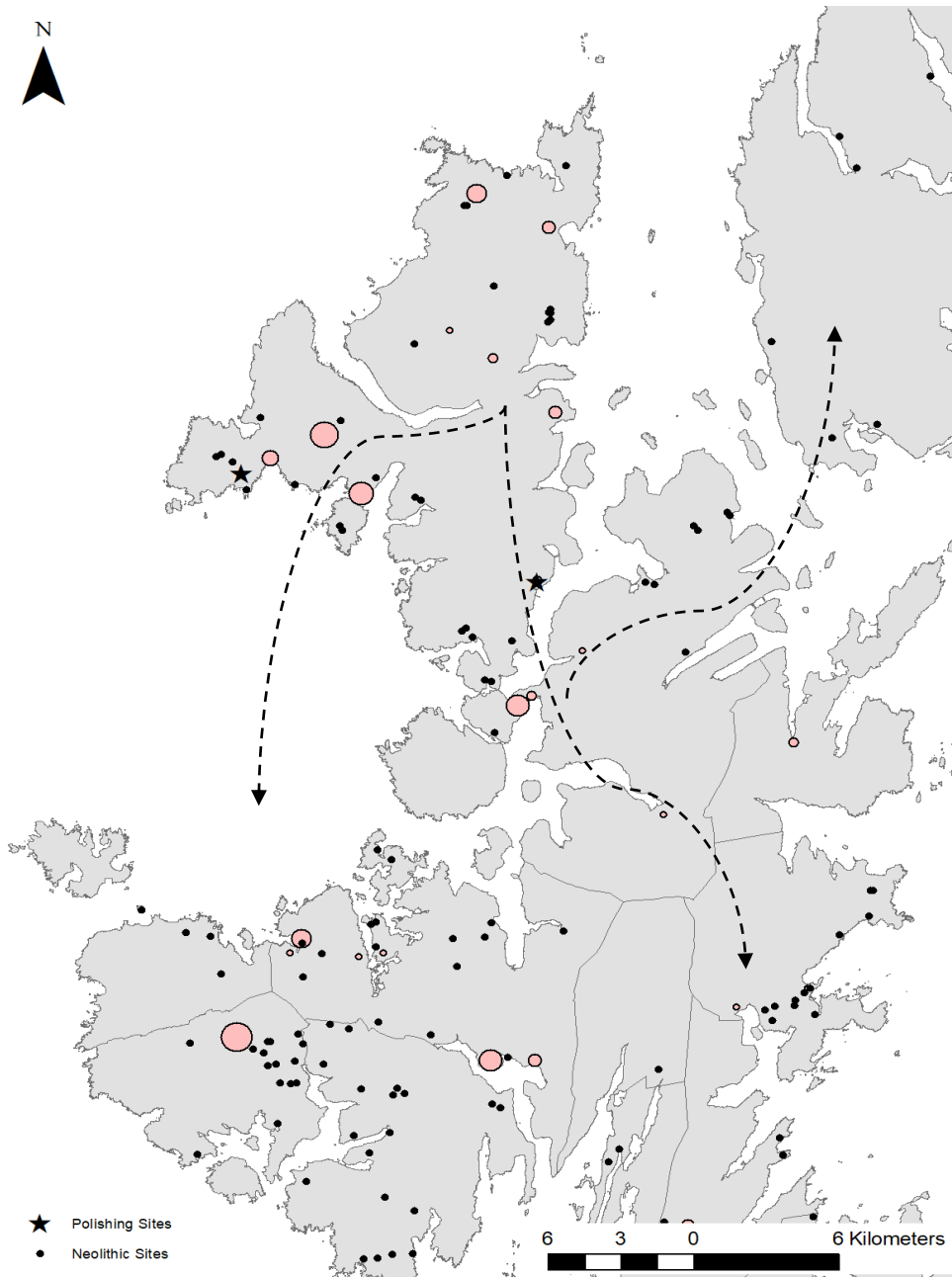




Scraper/ Polisher from Sullom (Photo: NRFP 2018)

Tangwick Polishing Site





Concluding thoughts...

Felsite excavated into roughouts from dykes in Northmavine workshops.

Roughouts were transported throughout the archipelago. They appear to be polished *en route* as visible in the polishing assemblages from Punds and Tangwick.

Tools also polished/ recycled in settlements like Crooksetter and Modesty

The felsite economy was well established in the Early Neolithic (c. 3600 BC)

Distinctive Shetland styles were also established by this time

Insular closed economy visible in the distribution of felsite tools in the Early Neolithic.

Terrestrial and maritime distribution network



Ronas Hill from West Burrafirth (Photo by NRFP 2018)

Acknowledgements

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